



Water Quality NewsFlash

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California Water Plan - Update 2005 addresses storm water runoff – The *California Water Plan* provides a framework for water managers, legislators, and the public to make decisions regarding California's water future, particularly in regards to water supply. The Department of Water Resources has finalized the latest version: *Update 2005*. For the first time, the plan includes a substantial section addressing urban runoff. In *Chapter 21 - Urban Runoff Management in California* the plan discusses problems and opportunities associated with runoff and identifies several objectives, including the following:

- Maintenance of the predevelopment hydrologic conditions (i.e., preventing increases in flow peaks or volume)
- Protection and augmentation of groundwater supplies
- Management of aquatic and riparian resources for active and passive pollution control

The plan states that the traditional approach to runoff management – generally flood channels – has been successful at preventing flood damage, but has not addressed loss of habitat or infiltration to groundwater. The plan notes that the Fresno-Clovis area manages to recharge more than 70 percent of its storm water runoff using retention basins. It also cites Santa Monica's goal of treating and reusing all urban runoff. The plan identifies funding and lack of coordination as impediments to its stormwater goals. <http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/docs/cwpu2005/vol2/v2ch21.pdf>

LA River – City creates artificial wetland; helps clean runoff – Located in an industrial corridor, the Augustus F. Hawkins Nature Park is 8 ½ acres and includes a wetland that receives runoff from city streets. The wetland was designed to provide multiple benefits: treatment of dry and wet weather runoff, wildlife habitat, recreation, and education. During wet weather, the wetlands increase in size allowing detention and treatment of the storm flows before they discharge to the Los Angeles River. By discharging after peak flows, the wetland also provides a flood control benefit. The City is planning several more wetlands and will collect performance data. Site description: <http://www.lastormwater.org/WPD/program/science/augustus.htm>
Article: http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-wetlands5feb05_0_31080.story?coll=la-headlines-california

Upcoming

- *Scripps Workshop – Activities to protect the ocean waters.* **February 28;** 1:30 – 4:00pm at Scripps, San Diego; Scripps received an exception to the Ocean Plan to discharge aquaria wastewater and storm water to the adjacent Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS). They will describe their activities related to the conditional exception. Call (858) 534-5204.
- *CWEA Annual Conference- Sacramento;* **April 4 – 7;** focus on domestic wastewater (sewage), but includes storm water sessions. http://www.cwea.org/et_attendees_conferences.shtml .

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, fkrieger@msn.com with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>